

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 148796
ORIGIN VO-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 H-01
CA-01 HA-05 SS-15 L-03 /077 R

DRAFTED BY VO:SPATTERSON:H:WCHRISTIANSON
APPROVED BY CA:BMWATSON
NEA/PAB - MHORNBLOW (SUBST)
HA - JLCARLIN
HA/ORM - LARTHUR
HA - FSIEVERTS (SUBST)
CA - JDEWITT

-----035377 122108Z /70

O 122053Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 148796

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SREF, AP, SHUM

SUBJECT: ASYLUM - PROCEDURE FOR AFGHANS

REF: KABUL 4513 (NOTAL)

FOR AMBASSADOR ELIOT FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY BARBARA M.
WATSON
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1. I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN FOR THE AFGHAN CITIZENS WHO
WISH TO COME TO THE U.S. DUE TO THEIR FEAR OF PERSECUTION
FROM THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT AND THEIR TIES TO THE U.S., AND
THE THOUGHT YOU HAVE PUT INTO POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO THEIR
PLIGHT.

2. AFGHANS FALL WITHIN THE DEFINITION OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND THEREFORE ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR SEVENTH PREFERENCE. WE RECOGNIZE INS PROCESSING POSTS ARE NOT CONVENIENTLY LOCATED FOR AFGHANS, BUT NOTE THAT CANDIDATES REACHED SUCH POSTS IN THE PAST. VOLUNTARY AGENCIES MIGHT POSSIBLY HELP WITH TRAVEL AND MAINTENANCE ONCE REFUGEES HAVE LEFT AFGHANISTAN, ALTHOUGH THEY CANNOT GIVE ASSURANCES IN ADVANCE TO ASSIST INDIVIDUAL SPECIFIC CASES. SEVENTH PREFERENCE NUMBERS ARE CURRENT FOR AFGHANS, BUT ROUTINE PROCESSING REQUIRES AN AVERAGE TIME IN PROCESSING POST OF 2-5 MONTHS.

3. INDIVIDUAL CASES OF PARTICULAR HUMANITARIAN CONCERN BECAUSE OF IMMINENT DANGER, AGE OR HEALTH FACTORS MAY BE SUBMITTED BY EMBASSY TO DEPARTMENT ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS REQUESTING INDIVIDUAL HUMANITARIAN PAROLE. IN STRONGLY DOCUMENTED CASES WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO ENCOURAGE INS TO RESPOND FAVORABLY.

4. WE DO NOT CONSIDER THE ISSUANCE OF NIVS TO THOSE INTENDING TO RESIDE IN THE U.S. A PROPER PROCEDURE AND SUGGEST USE OF EITHER INDIVIDUAL HUMANITARIAN PAROLE OR APPLYING FOR 7TH PREFERENCE REFUGEE STATUS.

5. ALTHOUGH THERE IS CURRENTLY NO UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE IN TEHRAN OR PAKISTAN, THERE ARE U.N. DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OFFICES, WHICH FREQUENTLY ACT AS A CHANNEL TO UNHCR.
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AFGHANS WHO MAKE IT TO A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY AND ARRIVE DESTITUTE OR NEEDING HELP IN OBTAINING VISAS FOR ONWARD TRAVEL TO A PROCESSING COUNTRY COULD SEEK IT FROM THOSE OFFICES. ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS RED LION AND SUN SOCIETY IN IRAN MAY ALSO BE OF SOME ASSISTANCE.

6. PLEASE BE ASSURED OF MY CONTINUING INTEREST IN YOUR EFFORTS AND OF MY SUPPORT IN WAYS IN WHICH I CAN BE HELPFUL. BEST REGARDS. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL ASYLUM, PROCEDURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE148796
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SPATTERSON:H:WCHRISTIANSON
Enclosure: GS DC ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780245-0815
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780668/aaaachbl.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f944d18a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN VO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 KABUL 4513
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2385983
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASYLUM - PROCEDURE FOR AFGHANS
TAGS: SREF, SHUM, AF
To: KABUL
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f944d18a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014